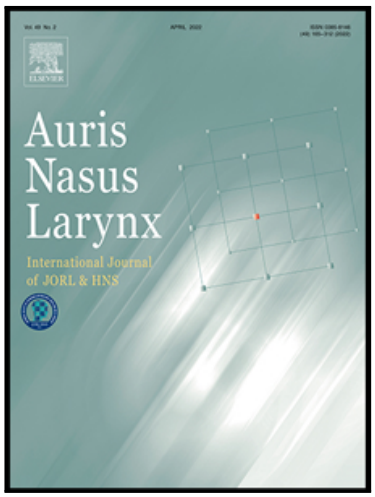
Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.



Letter to the editor: COVID-19 findings revealed via otolaryngological examination: Findings of a Japan Otorhinolaryngologist Association questionnaire

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Letter to Editor

Letter to the editor: COVID-19 findings revealed via otolaryngological examination: Findings of a Japan Otorhinolaryngologist Association questionnaire

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To the Editor:

We conducted a survey on patients diagnosed with COVID-19 in December 2020. However, since the emergence of the omicron (B.1.1.529) variant in early 2022, COVID-19 is mainly characterized by upper respiratory tract inflammatory symptoms rather than those of the lower respiratory tract. There are also high rates of redness and edema of the pharyngolaryngeal mucosa, especially lateral bands, which can be observed through visual examination of the oral cavity and pharyngolarynx. In addition, COVID-19 caused by the omicron variant is characterized by the formation of a sticky, mottled white coat in the laryngeal vestibule, and erythema and swelling extending below the glottis and into the trachea [1]. Unfortunately, Japan did not play a substantial role in the evidence established during the COVID-19 epidemic. In Western countries, family physicians and general practitioners are often the first to diagnose COVID-19 in

the framework of the healthcare system, whereas in Japan, patients choose to see an otolaryngologist, and as otolaryngologists, we have witnessed situations where a single viral variant can cause dramatic changes locally in a short period. In the future, otolaryngologists in Japan are expected to actively generate and disseminate evidence for diagnosis and treatment, utilizing their experience as front-line specialists in upper airway infections.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The author has no competing interests to disclose.

References

[1] Kimura Y, Hirabayashi E, Yano M, Fujitani S, Shioiri S. COVID-19 Omicron variant-induced laryngitis. Auris Nasus Larynx 2022;23:S0385-8146(22)00200-0.